



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Minutes of the February 16, 2006 Meeting

<u>Attending Members</u>	<u>Absent Members</u>	<u>Others</u>
Crystal Norris	Brock Dolman	Kathleen Kraft, Salmon Creek Watershed
Jim Lynch		Chris Choo, Salmon Creek Watershed
Alan Ferris		Nathan R. Botwinik, Vernal Pool Technologies, LLC
Dennis Rosatti		Alida Morzenti, The Bird Rescue Center
Pierre Gadd		Mark Green, Laguna Foundation
Dave Cook		Marcia Johnson, Laguna Foundation
Andrew Pozzi		Rick Kaye, Sotoyome RCD
Jo Bentz		Matt Parlato, Department of Fish & Game
Jeff Holden		Alex McVicker, Ag. Commissioner's Office
Martin Bauman		Deanna McAulay, Ag. Commissioner's Office
		Don Lullock, citizen

Chairperson Crystal Norris called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion to accept the January minutes was made by Alan Ferris with a second by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. Resolution from the Board of Supervisors appointing Jeff Holden as a Commissioner from the Second District
2. A copy of the letter to Senator Wes Chesbro from the Commission in support of the proposed legislation for Abalone Recovery and Management Plan ("Randy Fry Law")
3. A copy of the letter sent to Vicki Petersen with Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder regarding George Snyder's Statement of Economic Interests
4. SPAWN – "Basins of Relations" Winter Salmon Seminar Series information
5. Department of Fish and Game News Releases –
 - DFG Schedules Public Salmon Meeting
 - Fish and Game Commission March Meeting Agenda
 - DFG now offers Hunter Education Online Course
 - Fish and Game Commission elects Michael Flores as new president

Financial Report

The Abalone Fund in January received \$450.33 from collections, \$270.00 in court revenues, and \$220.37 in interest with a fund balance of \$36,903.82. The General Fund received in

January \$1,585.63 in court revenues, \$2,000.00 from the District Attorney, and \$1,608.12 in interest with a fund balance of \$187,315.44. Motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Andy Pozzi with a second by Jim Lynch. Motion carried.

Old Business

Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007 – discussion began regarding increasing the proposed budgets for the fiscal year 2006-2007.

Pierre Gadd made motion to increase the expenses to \$60,000 on the proposed General Fund Budget for the FY 2006-2007 with a second from Jim Lynch. However Pierre withdrew his motion when he realized that the Agricultural Commissioner's Office had requested an increase in the revenues received to total \$60,000.

Crystal Norris and Jim Lynch presented the background on current situation with the FY05/06 budget. There will not be enough money available for the remainder of the fiscal year if the commission does not go to the Board of Supervisors to request a transfer of funds. Crystal suggested the commission request \$40,000 be transferred from the General Funds reserves to the budget expenses for the remainder of the FY 05/06.

Jim Lynch made a motion to approach the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to increase the General Fund Budget expenses by \$40,000 for the FY 2005-2006. A second was made by Pierre Gadd. Motion carried.

Approval of the revised proposed budgets for the FY 2006-2007 has been postponed to the March meeting, with the intention that Crystal and Jim will discuss the budgets with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Second Reading Salmon Creek Watershed Council – Kathleen Kraft and Chris Choo of Salmon Creek Watershed Council were present with a revised request for \$7,979.70 to continue and expand the volunteer monitor project of Salmon Creek.

Chris Choo handed out a revised budget for the grant. She was able to secure equipment sales, the need for one less Turbidimeter, and Doug Gore donated money for the council to obtain waiters.

Pierre had questions regarding the non-profit Bodega Land Trust as the fiscal agent, who will be responsible for the equipment? Chris responded that the Salmon Creek volunteers would possess, maintain, and be responsible for all equipment purchased with the grant money. Pierre also wondered what would happen if Chris, the current contact, moved on? Chris responded that the Bodega Land Trust has an office with paid staff. Pierre requested that a procedure be created regarding calling the commission if Chris did move on.

Motion to accept the grant request in full for \$7,979.70 with the stipulation that Bodega Land Trust Board would compose a letter stating they would be responsible for equipment monitoring and when Salmon Creek Watershed Council was finished with the equipment the County of Sonoma would maintain ownership of the equipment purchased with the grant money was made by Alan Ferris. A second was made by Jim Lynch. Andy Pozzi opposed. Motion carried Grant #99 to Salmon Creek Watershed Council for ongoing monitoring of Salmon Creek.

New Business

First Reading Songbird Diet Research & Improvement – Alida Morzenti of The Bird Rescue Center was present requesting a grant for \$6,000 for Songbird Diet Research & Improvement.

Alida Morzenti provided a project description. The grant request is to help cover the food and veterinary portion of bird rehabilitation. The center would like to define and implement a nutritional diet for both young and adult birds in their care.

Martin Bauman inquired how Sonoma County would benefit. Alida replied the birds are in Sonoma County.

Discussion ensued regarding if this was a practical project for the commission to fund as well as some of the commissioners have not seen grants requesting money for food. Pierre stated that the commission has given tens of thousands of money to research regarding Salmon in the creeks; birds are wildlife within the county. Crystal added that the commission has given money to grants to build shelters, medicine, and food. Alida stated that the center would like to buy different diet foods to experiment with ingredients including digestible proteins to produce the best possible food.

The center has three paid staff, seven volunteer supervisors, and 300 volunteers during baby season with an annual budget of \$3,000 for food. The turn-around time to rehabilitate a bird using the soft-release program is 20 to 30 days.

Andy Pozzi inquired is 30 days enough to get results? Alida said, "Yes". We compare ages, growth, amount of food fed, and mortality. Andy raised the question if you release the birds into the wild what will you know after releasing in the long run? Alida answered that the center will compare wild bird values will be evaluated. She added they are not after pure growth but over time growth.

Crystal Norris thanked Alida for attending and stated this would be considered the first reading of this grant.

First Reading "Learning Laguna" – Mark Green and Marcia Johnson of Laguna Foundation were present requesting a grant for \$3,600 for their "Learning Laguna" Education Program.

Mark Green handed out copies of two newspaper articles regarding the Laguna. He began to give a detail background of the foundation. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. "Learning Laguna" began in 1999, which is a science education program for elementary school children in their classrooms and in a field trip to the Laguna. Mark explained there are two components to the program that include a ten week training for the docents who then teach the "Learning Laguna" program to the school children. This program serves approximately 800 children annually. He explained the grant request is to purchase two spotting scopes, taxidermy of collected wildlife specimens used in the classroom teaching, and funding for bus transportation for schools that cannot afford transportation for a field trip to the Laguna.

Jo Bentz asked if they see wildlife on the field trips? Mark responded with a "Yes" especially in the morning we could see otters, foxes, etc.

Pierre asked are the participants on trails? Yes we use the trail system stated Mark.

Dave Cook raised the issue regarding having multiple bids for the scope. Jim Lynch and Crystal both responded that typically the commission does ask for multiple quotes on equipment. Jim asked Mark Green to obtain multiple quotes for the scopes prior to the second reading. Mark agreed.

Martin Bauman expressed Carolyn Dixon's concern for the Laguna, which Mark restated that the groups use the trails at all times.

Crystal Norris thanked Mark and Marcia for attending and stated this would be considered the first reading of this grant.

First Reading Classroom Aquarium Education Program Project – Rick Kaye of Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) was present requesting a grant for \$1,050 for Classroom Aquarium Education Program Project.

Rick Kaye passed out a revised budget for the grant of \$460 for two high school teachers to complete the annual Steelhead in the Classroom training hosted by the Redwood Empire chapter of Trout Unlimited, purchase an incubator tank, and engage their students in fisheries biology education. The program creates awareness with approximately 90 students from Montgomery and Piner High Schools. The teachers involved will be trained to be permit-holders and raise steelhead trout in the classroom. Andy Pozzi inquired where do the teachers get the eggs? Rick stated the eggs come from Warm Springs Dam.

Dave Cook added that the Sonoma County Water Agency had provided funding in the past and all the reviews were positive regarding this particular program. Dave proceeded to ask if the students are able to take a field trip to pick up the eggs and then for the release of the Steelhead? Rick replied that is the teachers' choice.

Rick stated that he would not be able to attend the March meeting. Crystal then stated that the second reading would be on the April agenda. Rick added that he would attend the April meeting.

Crystal Norris thanked Rick for attending and stated this would be considered the first reading of this grant and the second reading would be in April 2006.

Reports and Comments

Board

Pierre stated that a Cooper's Hawk is hunting his pigeons. Alida stated she is available to come over and help him out.

Dennis Rosatti inquired about scholarships – do we have many turned in yet? There is currently one in the office. All Ferris stated that the deadline was March 31st for applications to be submitted.

Public

Nathan Botwinik introduced himself as the "Wetland Guy".

Don Lullock asked if grant recipients come back and report on the project? Jim Lynch stated about 30 percent come back and report to the commission. The commission requests that each recipient report within a year of their grant approval.

Matt Parlato introduced himself as a new DFG Warden to the area.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna McAulay, Secretary